

RECREATION TRAIL AND WALKWAY

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 568



DEFINITION

A recreation trail and walkway is a pathway prepared especially for pedestrian, equestrian, and cycle travel.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of the practice is to provide users of recreation areas with travel routes for activities such as walking, sightseeing, horseback riding, and bicycling. The purpose (s) also include erosion control, protection of the natural resources, and aesthetics.

Planning this practice includes saving trees and other vegetation that provide shade, reduce erosion, provide wildlife food and cover, and add to the scenic value of the area. Other considerations include using judgment in regard to grades, widths, drainage, sideslopes of cuts and fills, and other criteria effecting stability of the pathway.

Erosion control provisions include proper layout and establishing vegetation or mulching all disturbed areas. If bridges are needed, designs should always consider maximum expected loading with an adequate safety factor.

If surfacing is required or desired to firm the trail, a variety of material is available and the decision is generally based on economic considerations.

Safety considerations include protection from slides and falling rocks. If needed, directional and warning signs will be installed. Handrails, bridges and culverts will be installed as dictated by the site conditions and intended use.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are filed in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.